X'mas Heart

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After the Lantern Festival in August,
the autumn wind blows.
At the end of October,
the snow insects flutter about.
In November, snow will fall

That is Sapporo city,
where I used to live...

X'mas Heart

クリスマス ハート

村上 麻紀
Murakami Maki

村上麻紀初のコミックス「みんなの声がきこえる①」1月発行予定"よろしくね♡

I'M NISHINO NAOKI, A SECOND YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
DOES IT SNOW.... IN TOKYO?
ABOUT THREE TIMES A YEAR, I THINK...
BUT AFTER CHRISTMAS OR THE FIRST DAY OF FEBRUARY, THERE WILL BE LOTS OF SNOWY DAYS HERE RIGHT?
YEAH.
WILL THE SNOW BE PILING UP?
I'VE BEEN ENROLLED IN A TOKYO SCHOOL SINCE APRIL...
WHEN IT PILES UP TO 20 CM, THE ELECTRIC TRAIN HAS TO STOP OPERATING.
AT WORST, THE TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PARALYZED.
BACK IN THE NORTH, I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT OF HAVING THIS CONVERSATION.
YOU WERE FROM THAT FAMOUS SCHOOL IN SAPPORO BEFORE YOU GOT TRANSFERRED TO MORINO HIGH, WEREN'T YOU?
AND YOU CHANGED SCHOOL BECAUSE YOUR DAD TRANSFERRED WORK, RIGHT?
FATHER AND SON, BOTH GOT TRANSFERRED, ISN'T THAT WEIRD?
AND I CAME ACROSS THIS GUY, SAKASHITA RYOUSUKE.

MY FRIENDSHIP WITH RYOUSUKE HAS BEEN GOING SO WELL I FORGOT HOW IT STARTED...
BOTH OF MY PARENTS WERE FROM TOKYO.
BESIDES, I DON'T WANT TO GO TO THAT SCHOOL ANYMORE
THAT'S ALL
WHAT?
WHAT'S WITH THAT SUSPICIOUS LOOK?
HAVE YOU FINISHED COPYING THAT ENGLISH COMPOSITION?
YEAH, YEAH SORRY, I DO IT EVERY TIME.
SO, YOU OWE ME ONE J-LEAGUE TICKET
I KNEW IT...

HALF A YEAR GOES BY QUICKLY IF YOU SPEND IT WITH A BEST FRIEND YOU REALLY LIKE.
HIS KINDNESS KNOWS NO LIMIT.
HE'S A REALLY GREAT GUY
"SINCE IT'S A LOT OF TROUBLE GETTING YOU INTO MORINO HIGH...
...I SHOULD BE THE ONLY ONE TO GET TRANS-FERRED HERE."
BUT A FAMILY SHOULD LIVE TOGETHER, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHAT DAD SAID.
MOM ONLY WORRIES ABOUT THE CHANGE I HAVE TO GO THROUGH.
BUT SHE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED...

I COULD FINALLY ESCAPE FROM THAT HELL.
IT'S PEACEFUL NOW.
BUT I'M AFRAID OF WHAT LIES BEYOND THE PEACE.
SMILING OVER TRIVIAL THINGS IN CARE-FREE...
IDIOT. CAUGHT A COLD?
HERE WHY DON'T YOU THANK ME FOR CHECKING IN ON YOU.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO GET YOU, SO I JUST BOUGHT ALL KINDS OF FRUIT, ONE EACH.
THE OLD MAN AT THE SHOP FROZE AND GAVE ME A WEIRD LOOK
GWA HA HA HA HA
biush
GETTING MY CHEST BURNING OVER LITTLE THINGS...
IS IT SWEET?
YUP!
IT'S TIMES LIKE THESE I WISH COULD GO ON FOREVER.

MY HEART HAS BEEN WARNING ME FOR A LONG TIME
"DANGER! DANGER!" IT CRIES
I SHOULD HAVE GONE HOME
I'M GOING HOME NOW.
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE BEING QUIET
YOU'RE WEIRD TODAY
THAT DAY...
LET GO OF MY HAND!
VERY FUNNY, YOU'RE HOLDING IT TOO TIGHT
YOU SHOULD'VE KNOWN THAT THIS ISN'T A JOKE!
I LOVE YOU.

IS THIS THE KIND OF FRIEND-SHIP THAT GOES BETWEEN GUYS?
WE STUDY TOGETHER AT SCHOOL
BUT... WITH A GUY FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL
PLEASE, REALIZE THAT I HAVE THAT KIND OF FEELING FOR YOU
YOU HAD SEX WITH HIM?
.YEAH .
THERE'S AN UNSPO-KEN RULE FOR ALL BOY'S FRIEND-SHIP
I'VE ALSO HAD SEX WITH GUYS
IT WAS A GANG RAPE
MORINO HIGH ISN'T LIKE MY SCHOOL BACK IN SAPPORO IT WAS CHUUKOU HIGH, A SCHOOL WITH INTENSIVE INTEGRITY TRAINING

NO NO WAY...
I WAS SHOCKED TO LEARN THIS THE VERY FIRST DAY I ENTERED THE SCHOOL
INSTEAD OF DOING IT WITH GIRLS, THEY SETTLE FOR THEIR FELLOW GUYS, WHICH ARE MORE HANDY
ALL THE STUDENTS DO IS STUDYING AND THEY HAVE NO INTEREST IN OTHER THINGS
THEY'RE DECEIVED BY THE SCHOOL'S FAME
THE PUBLIC DOESN'T KNOW IT
WHEN WE STILL DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, WE WERE HAPPY TO
IN DESPAIR, WE WENT ALONG WITH OUR COOL SENPAI'S WHIMS
THE HEAD OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL AND A GROUP OF ELITE MEMBERS WHO HAVE NO OTHER INTEREST EXCEPT FOR BOYS
CONTROLLING THE REST OF THE STUDENTS ARE...
I FINALLY LEARNED THEIR REAL INTENTION
AT THE INITIATION CEREMONY...
EVERY ONE OF THEM RELEASED INSIDE OF ME...
I WAS SO SCARED, I COULDN'T GO AGAINST THEM...

SINCE THEN, I BECAME THE STUDENT COUNCIL'S FAVORITE BOY AND TOOK THEIR FAVOR WHOLE-HEARTEDLY
WHAT KIND OF A THING WAS THAT!?
IF YOU SAY THAT YOU CAN LIKE, THAT YOU CAN LOVE A BASTARD LIKE ME, THEN IT MUST BE A BIG, FAT LIE!
YOU ONLY PRETEND THAT YOU WANT TO MAKE LOVE TO ME!
IT'S ONLY A DISGUSTINGLY NAIVE FEELING IF IT'S ONLY SEX, YOU CAN DO IT WITH JUST ANYONE!
DON'T SAY THAT KIND OF THING ANY-MORE
COOL YOUR HEAD
BECAUSE WE'RE JUST FRIENDS
creak
JUST FORGET WHAT HAP-PENED TODAY
LET'S PUT ON OUR USUAL FACES FROM YESTER-DAY
SEE YOU
CLACK

WILL YOU STOP TALKING LIKE THAT!?
IT'S RIDICULOUS. YOU'LL GET LAUGHED AT, YOU KNOW!
YOU'LL MAKE KANAKO THINK YOU'RE ANGRY SO, PUT ON THAT MARIO FACE OF YOURS
YOU PROMISED, DIDN'T YOU?
OPEN YOUR EYES, RYOUSUKE!!
ARE WE BACK TO MERE CLASSMATES NOW?
IT'S REALLY TOO BAD...
Squeeze
WE USED TO BE BEST FRIENDS..
THE END OF TERM WILL PASS JUST LIKE THAT AND SOON THE TEST DAY-OFFS WILL COME...

. . . HAS THIS MOUTH ASKED
SINCE THEN, NOT A SINGLE WORD...
RYOUSUKE!
I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU.
ANY-THING
I SHOULD SAY SOME-THING
thump

MEET ME UP WITH THOSE BASTARDS! I'LL BEAT THEM TO DEATH!
I ABSOLUTELY CAN'T FORGIVE THEM!
I JUST WANT TO SAY ONE THING TO YOU.
YOU, OVER THERE, DON'T SKIP YOUR WORK!
YOU.
YOU COULDN'T DO ANYTHING BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU WASN'T THEIR FAULT!
IT WON'T DO ANYTHING NOW!
ARE YOU STUPID!?
I'VE LET IT GO BY COMING ALL THE WAY HERE.

I LOVE YOU, NAOKI!
WE'RE GOOD TOGETHER, AREN'T WE?
I WANT TO DO IT BECAUSE I LOVE YOU! DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT BEFORE?
THIS FEELING IS REAL
THAT'S NOT IT!!
IT'S BECAUSE WE WERE BEST FRIENDS.
I'M JUST THE SAME WITH THOSE GUYS, YOU KNOW.
EVERY TIME HE USED ME, I CALLED OUT HIS NAME...
BUT WE ONLY KISSED...
I SEE US IN MY DREAMS, TOUCHING, HOLDING EACH OTHER...
I'LL DO IT WITH ANYONE AS LONG AS HE'S GOOD AT SEX...
THERE WAS THIS GUY THAT I HATE

YANK!
NAOKI!
THAT GUY, HE...
....HE MADE ME... DO IT... WITH MANY SENPAIS...
WHY DID YOU RUIN OUR FRIENDSHIP?
IT'S YOUR FAULT IT ENDS UP LIKE THIS!
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME?
I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE YOU!

IT'S THE WINTER HOLIDAY..
EVERY SINGLE DAY, MY HEAD BECOMES CLEARER
I GO BACK AND FORTH
...BETWEEN THE PREP SCHOOL AND HOME.

IT'S OKAY
I'LL PICK IT UP ON THE WAY HOME.
IF I DIDN'T HAVE AN APPOINT-MENT, I'D BUY IT MYSELF.
THERE'S A REALLY TASTY ONE SOLD IN THAT SHOP ACROSS THE STATION, RIGHT?
CHRIST-MAS CAKE...
HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT... TODAY IS THE 24TH...
CHRISTMAS EVES EXIST ONLY FOR...
THE HAPPY CHILDREN...
AND THE HAPPY COUPLES...

THIS SONG IS FLOATING ALL OVER THE CITY THROUGH-OUT THE DAY
If you don't come here, you will surely spend Christmas Eve on your own. Silent Night, Holy Night,
After the night gets late, the rain turns to snow, doesn't it? Silent Night, Holy Night
PEOPLE ARE CARRYING WRAPPED GIFTS BOXES
THE RED AND GREEN RIBBONS
There is no place for wary feelings and self reserved thoughts.
P-BOY
Surely, there is an indescribable feeling tonight...
THE CHIME OF BELLS THE SOUNDS OF LAUGHTER
DONK!
IT REMINDS ME OF UNRE-QUITED LOVES.
THIS STUPID CHRIST-MAS SONG
GOD DAMN IT!
THIS FEELING OF NOT HAVING ANYWHERE TO GO—

AH, IT'S NISHINO!!
wipe wipe wipe wipe
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ON CHRISTMAS EVE?
WE CALLED YOUR HOME
AREN'T YOU COMING TO THE PARTY?
NISHINO, COME WITH US!
WE DIDN'T MAKE RESERVATION, YOU KNOW.
WITH THAT, WE CAN GO.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT GAG IS KIND OLD?
AI-CHAN, IS THAT GUY AVAILABLE?
HE IS, BUT...
SAKASHITA-KUN LEFT FOR SAPPORO
HE JUST GOT BACK TODAY BY BUS.
HUH? NISHI-NOOO!
thudump
IT CAN'T BE TRUE, CAN IT?
thudump
IT'S A LIE, RIGHT?
IT CAN'T BE..

Yes, who is this?
I'M SHIVERING INSIDE..
ERR.. IT'S NISHINO..
haah..
haah
haah
thudump
DID YOU WENT TO SEE THOSE GUYS?
WHY DID YOU DO THAT MUCH FOR ME?
click
GIVE IT TO ME
LET'S TALK OUTSIDE AFTER I PUT YOUR STUFF INSIDE
AH..
GIVE ME YOUR STUFF
I'LL TAKE IT INSIDE
I DID A DISGUSTING THING

THE CITY YOU SOMETIMES TALKED ABOUT...
I WANTED TO SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES...
IT WAS SNOWING
BEAUTIFUL POWDER SNOW
AFTER THE NEW YEAR, IT BECOMES A LINGERING SNOW AND AFTER THAT, THE CITY WILL COMPLETELY BE COVERED WITH IT.
IT WAS A PAIN LIVING THERE, BUT I REALLY LOVED THE SNOW
WILL YOU PLEASE ACCEPT THIS?
IT'S MY CHRISTMAS PRESENT
I STOOD OUTSIDE THE FAMOUS CLOCK TOWER.
I ONLY WENT TO SEE SAPPORO, YOU KNOW.
AND SOMEHOW I FELT SAD...
IT'S THE CITY WHERE YOU USED TO BE IN—
THE STREETS WHERE YOU USED TO WALK ON
WHAT KIND OF PLACE YOU USED TO LIVE IN—

SO, THAT'S WHY I USED IT FOR SOMEONE THAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT FOR ME
I USED THE MONEY I WORKED HARD FOR ON SOMETHING IMPORTANT
gyuu
IT'S EXPENSIVE ISN'T IT?

I KNEW IT ALL ALONG..
I KNEW THAT I WANTED TO BE WITH HIM.
THAT I WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE LIKE HIM

NAO
HUH?
IT'S SNOWING!
IT'S COOL! SO IT ALSO FALLS IN TOKYO
WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO "THAT" YET, RIGHT?
I'M AFRAID I'LL REGRET IT IF I FOLLOW MY INSTINCTS ONCE AGAIN.

THAT OUR FEELINGS ARE FOR REAL...
I WANT TO BELIEVE
I WANT TO BELIEVE...
...THAT I'M DIFFERENT FROM THOSE GUYS
P-BOY
THANK YOU...
THANK YOU..
IT'S THE LAST CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR ME.
THE SCENERY LOOKS BLURRED THROUGH THE TEARS

THE NOISES ARE SUBDUED, THE SNOW IS FLUTTERING ABOUT..
IT'S PILING UP ON OUR SHOULDERS...
IT'S PILING UP ON MY NEW GLOVES...
IT'S PILING UP ON RYOUSUKE'S HAIR...
IT'S COVERING EVERYTHING.
THIS CHRISTMAS EVE..
THE SNOW IN TOKYO CONTINUES TO FALL INTO THE NIGHT..

The End

Merry Christmas!

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